

"I'm convinced this legislation is good for Iowa."

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By Bruce Braley

As a member of the House Subcommittee on Health, I've had a front-row seat as health-care legislation has moved through the House this year. The Affordable Health Care for America Act will decrease health insurance costs, expand access to quality, affordable health care, improve reimbursements for Iowa medical providers and allow Americans to maintain their choice of health insurance. After reading the bill, listening to my constituents and debating the bill's provisions in Congress, I'm convinced this legislation is good for Iowa.

In the 1st District alone, this legislation will improve Medicare for 102,000 beneficiaries, strengthen employer-based coverage for 394,000 residents and reduce the cost of uncompensated care for medical providers by \$99 million.

One of my biggest priorities has been fighting to fix unfair and inefficient geographic differences, and reform the Medicare system to one that pays Iowa's medical professionals for the high-quality, low-cost health care they currently provide. I'm proud to say that the House bill will finally fix these inequities, move us to a better reimbursement model that emphasizes quality over quantity, and help recruit well-qualified health-care providers to Iowa - all because of changes I championed.

This bill represents a long process of thorough consideration and discussion. I held 15 health-care town halls in my district and numerous other discussions to listen to Iowans' ideas for health-care reform. I personally studied this bill for months and spent eight days in hearings on health-care reform, listening to 89 different witnesses whose ideas spanned the ideological spectrum. In addition, I participated in five days of committee markup, a process where the bill was analyzed section-by-section and each amendment was voted on. The final version of the bill includes important changes from both Republicans and Democrats.

Throughout this entire process, I worked with my colleagues to craft legislation that will provide necessary relief from skyrocketing costs, give medical providers the tools they need to deliver quality, affordable care and ensure our system is one that rewards quality of care over quantity of care. The Affordable Health Care for America Act is good for Iowa's families, seniors and medical providers, and that's why I will vote for the bill on the House floor.